

VIII. FINAL PRIORITIZED ISSUES

After reviewing the scores the council was asked which issues they would like to address. After combining several issues, the PCHC choose the following issues for strategic planning purposes:

1. **Transportation to Health Care, Access to Nursing Home Care, and Access to Assisted Living Services**
2. **Heart Conditions, Obesity, and Hypertension**
3. **Substance Abuse**
4. **Prenatal and Women's Issues**

IX. CLOSING

This Community Diagnosis Health Status Report has provided a description of the assessment portion of the Community Diagnosis Process. The strategic planning portion will entail the formalizing of strategic interventions to deal with the aforementioned priorities. Soliciting input from additional residents and experts in the community, the PCHC will develop intervention strategies. Strategic planning will require consideration of the entire sequence of interacting factors that contribute to the problem, identifying contributing health links, identifying both public and private resources to address the problem and identifying barriers to reducing the problem. Upon completion of the strategic planning process, the PCHC will publish Volume II: The Community Diagnosis Strategic Planning Document, detailing all goals, objectives and specific interventions. The final edition, Volume III: The Community Diagnosis Evaluation Document will monitor the implementation and evaluate each intervention.

The Tennessee Department of Health Southeast Regional Assessment and Planning staff would like to thank the Polk County Health Council for their continued support and dedication throughout the Community Diagnosis Process. Their tireless efforts have and will continue to positively affect the health of Polk County.

If you would like more information about the health council or would like to join the council in their efforts to positively effect the above issues, please call (423) 634-3124 and ask to speak with someone from Assessment and Planning.

This report is also available on the world wide web thanks to a joint effort of the Tennessee Department of Health and the University of Tennessee at *server.to/hit* under the reports heading.